

Dear Colleague

## **LEICESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM**

I would like to invite you to a meeting of the Leicestershire Schools' Forum to be held on **Monday, 30 September 2019 at 2.00 pm at Beaumanor Hall, Beaumanor Drive, Woodhouse, Leicestershire** with the room being available from 1.30 pm.

Please see below for the agenda for the meeting.

Yours sincerely

**Karen Brown / Bryn Emerson (Tel. 0116 305 6432)**

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### **AGENDA**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Paper</u>
1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair	
2. Membership	
3. Apologies for absence/Substitutions.	
4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 June 2019 (previously circulated) and matters arising.	1
5. School Growth Policy	2
6. Proposed Schools Block Transfer	3
7. Any other business.	
8. Date of next meeting.	

Change of date from 25 November 2019 to 6 November 2019

Monday 20 January 2020

All at 2.00 – 4.00 pm at Beaumanor Hall

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**Minutes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Schools' Forum held at Beaumanor Hall  
on Monday 10 June 2019 at 2.00 pm**

**Present**

Nick Goforth	Secondary Academies Headteacher
Chris Parkinson	Secondary Academies Headteacher
Kath Kelly	Secondary Academies Headteacher
Chris Swan	Secondary Academies Governor
Martin Towers	Secondary Academies Governor
Suzanne Uprichard	PRU Representative
Jane McKay	Primary Academy Headteacher
Jean Lewis	Primary Academy Governor
David Thomas	Primary Academy Governor
Troy Jenkinson	Primary Maintained Headteacher
Karen Allen	Primary Maintained Headteacher
Claire Allen	Primary Maintained Governor
Zoe Wortley	Primary Maintained Governor
Ros Hopkins	Special Maintained Headteacher
Graham Bett	DNCC Representative
Clive Wright	RC Representative

**In attendance**

Ivan Ould, Lead Member, Children and Family Services  
 David Atterbury, Head of Service, Education Sufficiency  
 Tom Common, Head of Service, SEND and Disabled Children  
 Alison Bradley, Head of Service, Education Quality and Inclusion  
 Jenny Lawrence, Finance Business Partner, Corporate Resources

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Apologies and Substitutions</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Jane Moore, Paula Sumner, Jo Blackburn, Dave Hedley, Dawn Whitemore, Carolyn Lewis, James Tickle, Martin Turnham and Julie McBrearty.</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Minutes and Matters Arising</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 February 2019 were agreed subject to the following amendments:</p> <p>Page 5, seventh paragraph should read "Nick Goforth stated that there were no surprises in terms of funding for 2019/20 but asked for thoughts on funding from <u>2020/21</u>".</p> <p>Page 6, fourth paragraph should read "Nick Goforth stated that from a</p>	

	<p>meeting with the Regional Schools Commissioner <u>that single academies should consider MAT membership for school efficiency reasons</u>".</p> <p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p><u>Item 3 – 2019.20 Schools Budget</u></p> <p>Jenny Lawrence stated Leicestershire’s non-use of the sparsity factor in terms of the school funding created an issue in the baseline for the 2019/20 budgets. This will need to be looked at in the 2020/21 formula which may require an amendment to the formula.</p> <p>Jenny stated that Graham Bett had asked for a list of local authorities that provide funding in addition to DSG. Jenny said that at the time the data was not available for 2019/20 but have since been able to access this information. There are an additional 29 local authorities that are putting a total £32.6M on top of the DSG grant.</p> <p>Jenny confirmed Sophie Hayes-Watson has been successfully appointed to the post of School Strategic Financial Planner within Children and Family Services.</p> <p><u>High Needs Block Recovery Plan</u></p> <p>Karen Allen reported that herself and Jon Mellor (as Chairs of LPH and LSH respectively) met with the Leader regarding the Leicester Mercury report regarding SEN provision. Karen acknowledged that he had been misinterpreted and comments were taken out of context; he was very supportive of this move forward. Graham Bett commented that he had viewed the webcast and the statement had been accurately reported.</p>	
3.	<p><b>2018/19 Schools Budget Outturn</b></p> <p>Jenny Lawrence introduced the report which presents the 2018/19 Schools Budget outturn position and confirms the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Reserve.</p> <p>Jenny referred to the table in paragraph 5 which provides an analysis of the overspend and presents the position on the local authority budget. The Children in Care budget continues to be under significant pressure, however, the position is slightly better than anticipated. There is additional DSG funding received in December 2018 and there is a release of growth funding from the schools block which was not required in 2018/19 but is required in future years.</p> <p>Jenny stated that in terms of maintained school balances there has been concerns raised for the previous 2 financial years about the accuracy of forecasting. This again seems to be the position for 2018/19 where schools have again overstated the use of accumulated balances The School Financial Planner will try to establish and understand the reasons for this financial position and will work with both maintained schools and academies.</p> <p>The High Needs element of the DSG grant continues to be overspent</p>	

	<p>and is continually being looked at but until the High Needs Development Plan is delivered the High Needs deficit will increase.</p> <p>Jenny stated that in total the DSG reserves is £1.7m at the end of the 2018/19 financial year. The table in paragraph 11 offsets the previous balance against the high needs overspend. The early years element fluctuates, and a deficit will be held on high needs.</p> <p>Jenny reported that there is no information about school funding past 2019/20. At a Regional ESFA meeting it was stated that they had been working on a 3-year spending review depending on Brexit but it is still uncertain. The Timpson review of alternative provision which is suggestive of schools being more accountable for the costs of exclusions and a Call for Evidence was launched by the DfE in relation to SEND funding indicates a change to the balance of schools formula and high needs could all have an impact on school funding.</p> <p>Pay awards remain critical as a 2% pay increase for teachers, in line with inflation, is something schools cannot afford. Schools have been advised to assume 2020/21 has exactly the same funding levels as 2019/20.</p> <p>Karen Allen referred to page 12 of the report and asked about the underspend for targeted early help. Jenny explained that the majority of this saving was down to staff turbulence in terms of the early help review.</p> <p>David Thomas stated that schools are expected to fund the new pay increases – if it goes above 2% will there be some financial help. David also referred to the sub-division of the DSG reserve and asked if there is a choice. Jenny stated that managing schools growth needs to happen alongside the management of the high needs deficit although in cash terms they may offset each other.</p> <p><b>Schools Forum noted the financial outturn for the 2018/19 Schools Budget.</b></p> <p><b>Schools Forum noted the level of DSG reserve and the revised approach to its management.</b></p>	
4.	<p><b>High Needs Development Plan – New SEND Provision</b></p> <p>David Atterbury introduced the report which gives an update on the development of new SEND provisions as part of the High Needs Block Development Plan.</p> <p>David stated that this update reflects the position presented to Cabinet on 24 May 2019. David firstly gave an update on the establishment of new SEND places. The expansion of all 6 special schools will take place over the next 2 years and there are 15 new SEND units being established. There will also be a new 50 place Social, Emotional, Mental Health Needs (SEMH) School in South Leicestershire, mostly likely in Lutterworth and a similar sized SEMH school located at Shepshed Iveshead campus as part of a successful DfE free school bid.</p> <p>In terms of Post-16 SEND places there is new provision planned for</p>	

Maplewell Hall School located on the Charnwood College campus.

The new 80-place Communication and Interaction School, to be located in Barwell, is progressing well and is currently at the second stage of assessments. After the final stage of assessment (visits by the Council to existing similar academy currently operated by the applicant) recommendations of potential academy sponsors will be put forward to the Regional Schools Commissioner for a decision to be made to ensure the new school remains on schedule for September 2020 opening.

David outlined the plans to replace the hearing impaired unit at Beauchamp, the expansion of the Early Years provision at Wigston Menphys and Oakfield aspirations to develop north and south provision. Overall there are now 27 projects ranging from expansion of existing special schools, new C & I or SEMH resource bases and longer term new special schools. There are 2 key risks to delivery of the programme they relate to DfE consents for change and affordability of capital schemes.

David explained that the public consultation exercise closed on 31 March and the outcome was presented to Cabinet on 24 May 2019. The consultation responses were very supportive and David expressed his thanks to those who responded. There have been no objections received to the Statutory Notice during the representation period so, as agreed by the Cabinet in March, the Director of Children and Families Services will determine the Notice to allow the various SEND developments in maintained schools to proceed, particularly those planned to open in September 2019.

Jenny outlined the funding arrangements and the proposals for a one-off start-up allocation of £50,000, and a fixed allocation of £28,600 for each occupied place in the first year of opening for the new units. A letter has been sent to each school concerned to confirm the funding arrangements. There is no decision required from Schools Forum.

Suzanne Uprichard asked how children will be allocated to the new units and transport will be dealt with. David confirmed that pupils will be allocated by SENA, hence must have an EHCP. Transport will operate in accordance with the revised policy agreed by Cabinet. It is expected that as there will be more local provision over time the dependency on transport may reduce (bearing in mind also proposals for personal budgets).

**Schools Forum noted:**

- a) **Details of the new SEND units;**
- b) **The funding model for those units;**
- c) **The outcome of the County Council bid to seek Department for Education funding to establish a 50-place free school for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs;**
- d) **The planned Interviews of academy proposers (sponsors) to**

	<p><b>operate the new Communication and Interaction school in Barwell, which is in keeping with the requirements placed upon the Council by section 6A (the Free School Presumption) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as introduced by the Education Act 2011.</b></p>	
5.	<p><b>Autism Services</b></p> <p>Tom Common introduced the report which presents the Local Authority's plans to change the funding model for the provision of support through the Specialist Teaching Service, with regards to children who have autism.</p> <p>Tom outlined the key financial risks in terms of the current funding model and how the changes will align with the strategic direction of SEND Services. Tom highlighted that one of the changes will enable free access to early advice and support to schools. This will support early intervention to prevent the escalation of issues. Where children are not able to attend school Intensive Support will be charged in a way consistent with other services, such as Oakfield.</p> <p>Tom stated that further work is to be progressed during the next few months and a further report will be presented to Schools Forum.</p> <p>Ros Hopkins stated that this was a step in right direction and the next stages should involve effective pathways in health and wider family support, together with effective quality assurance.</p> <p>Discussion took place on the vulnerable children who schools suspect have autism but are pre-diagnosis and Karen Allen asked if there was any move to address this. Tom stated that this is being explored. Alison added that diagnostic issues for 0-5 children are also relevant and are being reviewed.</p> <p>Karen Allen stated that autism outreach was at capacity and there was a long time to wait to get provision for children with a diagnosis; children are at crisis point. Karen asked if there are there plans to extend the team to ensure there is provision. Tom said that there are no additional resources, but the new arrangements would mean that staff will be more able to advise schools at a whole school level, or with regards to children without a diagnosis.</p> <p>Ros stated that children who are displaying behaviours consistent with Autistic Spectrum Condition are vulnerable; a lot of those behaviours are not dependent on the diagnosis to get the help. The local authority are working with schools and partners to develop a specialist provision panel building upon arrangements for SEMH.</p> <p><b>Schools Forum noted the Local Authority's intention that</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i) From September 2019, to provide autism outreach support free of charge, providing early help advice to schools to promote inclusive practice.</b></li> <li><b>ii) From September 2019, to charge a day-rate recovery for pupils who are no longer attending their mainstream school.</b></li> </ul>	

<b>6.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>  Jenny informed the meeting that the September meeting will be the election of a new chair and vice-chair.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>  Monday 30 September 2019  Monday 25 November 2019  Monday 20 January 2020  All 2.00 – 4.00 pm at Beaumanor Hall	





## SCHOOLS FORUM

### School Growth Policy

30 SEPTEMBER 2019

Content Applicable to;		School Phase;	
Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools	X	Pre School	
Academies	X	Foundation Stage	X
PVI Settings		Primary	X
Special Schools / Academies		Secondary	X
Local Authority		Post 16	
		High Needs	

#### Purpose of Report

Content Requires;		By;	
Noting		Maintained Primary School Members	X
Decision	X	Maintained Secondary School Members	X
		Maintained Special School Members	
		Academy Members	
		All Schools Forum	

1. This report presents an updated policy for funding mainstream school growth for approval.

#### Recommendations

2. That Schools Forum approve the Policy for funding school growth to be implemented from September 2019

#### Background

3. The School and Early Years Finance Regulations require local authorities to fund schools on the basis of pupil numbers taken from the October School census immediately before the funding period (lagged funding), as such they make no allowance for any increase in pupil numbers whether by changes in demographics,

reorganisation including adding and removing age groups, or the basic need for additional school places.

4. A growth policy may differentiate between school phases but applies equally to mainstream schools and academies. It does not apply to special schools where growth is addressed through the annual place commissioning process.
5. The Department for Education (DfE) published criteria for allocation of growth fund set out the following features which would be deemed compliant, criteria may differentiate between school phases and may include one or more, of the following;
  - Support where an academy has agreed with the local authority to provide an extra class in order to meet basic need in the area (either as a bulge class or as an ongoing commitment)
  - *Additional support where a school has extended its age range (the majority of funding would be paid through the funding formula through a variation in pupil numbers)*
  - Support where school has temporarily increased its PAN, by a minimum number of pupils, in agreement of the local authority
  - *Support for KS1 classes where overall pupil numbers exceed a multiple of 30, by a minimum number of pupils*
  - Pre-opening costs, initial equipping allowance or diseconomies of scale allowance, for new maintained schools and academies; including new academies where the school is opening in response of basic need

The criteria above in italics denote areas where appropriate funding mechanisms exist and will not be considered within the policy review. Age range changes have their own funding mechanism, KS1 funding is not covered within the current policy as funding was fully delegated in 2013.

6. The DfE state that a growth fund may not be used to support:
  - Schools in financial difficulty
  - General growth due to popularity; which is managed through lagged funding
7. Additionally the DfE set out the circumstances where it would expect local authorities to request permission from the Secretary of State to vary pupil numbers as:
  - There has been, or is going to be, a reorganisation – approval has been granted for age range change
  - A school has changed, or is going to change its admission limit – maybe funded under current policy if the change has been requested by the local authority in order to meet the basic need for additional school places
8. There are no other circumstances with the funding system recognised by the DfE as requiring funding outside the lagged pupil number system and no reference to additional funding for demographic growth. The current policy makes provision for general growth in pupil numbers in some circumstances and is out of line with current DfE guidance.

9. Under the 2018/19 school funding reforms the DfE have funded growth as a separate element within the Schools Block Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which includes;
- Explicit growth – being funding set aside through a falling roll fund and growth funds
  - Implicit growth – being adjustments to the pupil number count to allocate formula funding – for Leicestershire this applies to the aggregate pupil number changes as a result of age range change and new schools which, as a reduction in funding requirement for 2018/19 can be used to fund growth in other schools.
10. It should be noted that the growth policy applies to mainstream primary and secondary maintained schools and academies, growth in relation to specialist places all fall as a cost to the High Needs Block DSG which makes no revenue provision for growth in places.

### **The Current Leicestershire Policy**

11. School growth in Leicestershire has predominantly occurred in the recent three years, the current policy was adopted in order to support the opening of Fossebrook Primary in September 2016 and other new schools subsequently delivered by the LA. It has also been used to fund significant expansions at a number of primary schools.
12. The current policy includes some capacity for funding significant increases in pupil numbers in year, this is at odds with the DfE's defined criteria for what constitutes growth.
13. Its application has not created any significant operational issues for new schools. It has been difficult however to support major school expansion i.e. an additional Form of Entry (FE) or the need to establish additional classes. This is as a result of the school funding system whereby new schools are funded on pupil estimates by the DfE until such time they have a full contingent of year groups, unlike expanding schools which are funded within the lagged funding system affecting multi-years but only receive a one off funding allocation.
14. In respect of age range changes the local authority will continue to seek annual approval from the DfE for the current funding mechanism for schools undertaking or affected by age range changes.

### **The Proposed Leicestershire Policy**

15. The proposed policy is shown in Appendix 1
16. The proposed policy;
- **Maintains** the current methodology for funding opening schools with an opening grant of £125,000 and allocation of £9,250 for additional classes.
  - **Removes** the trigger that funds in year increases in pupil numbers in line with DfE guidance. Such increases will need to be managed within the S251 budget allocation for maintained schools and GAG for academies.

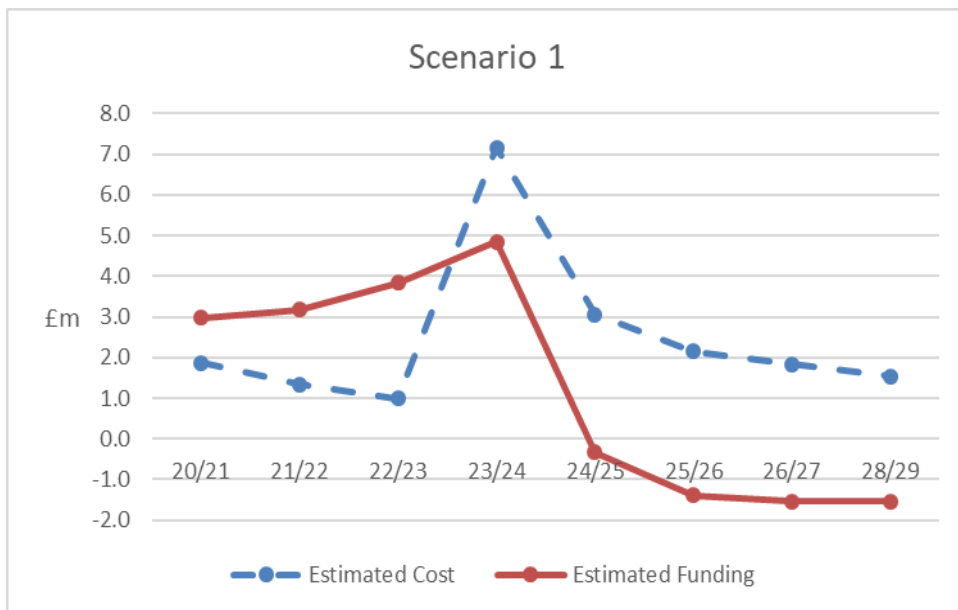
- **Maintains** the current funding rate of £50,000 for the opening of a new classroom
- **Extends** the period of funding if the expansion is the establishment of an additional Form of Entry (FE) until the expansion has been established in all year groups. £50,000 will be paid in each year of expansion
- **Maintains** the current policy in the instance of a single / temporary bulge class by providing an one off allocation of £50,000

### **Financial Impact**

17. All new schools open as Free Schools under the same funding methodology as academies. Local authorities directly fund the opening grants, the DfE determine the formula budget for new schools and recoup this from the Schools Block DSG allocation. Both sets of costs therefore fall to the authority. As DSG is based on a lagged pupil basis, local authorities fund the first 7 months of the formula budget of a new school without additional DSG with costs falling to the growth allocation.
18. The exact number and timing is however out of the control of the Council and dependent upon a range of factors including infrastructure developments such as road construction for which external funding is required and developer build rates. It is estimated that 28 new schools, 3 secondary and 25 primary, will be required up to 2027 as a result of housing developments across Leicestershire.
19. A further complication is assessing the growth funding allocations, these are reasonable firm for 2020/21 and 2021/22, following this a conservative estimate of £2m per annum is assumed. The DfE have stated that they will continue to review their methodology for funding school growth, for 2019/20 Leicestershire benefited from the formula and the growth allocation was capped. A conservative estimate of funding has been used within the modelling. In all years growth surplus or deficit is carried forward to the following year in line with the principles for managing the DSG reserve set out to Schools Forum in June 2019
20. Two scenario's have been modelled;
  - Scenario 1 – two schools in 2021 and 13 in 2023, 2023 being the anticipated earliest completion date
  - Scenario 2 – two school in 2021 and 8 in 2023, 2023 being the anticipated earliest completion date of schools on developments that have all planning consents in place

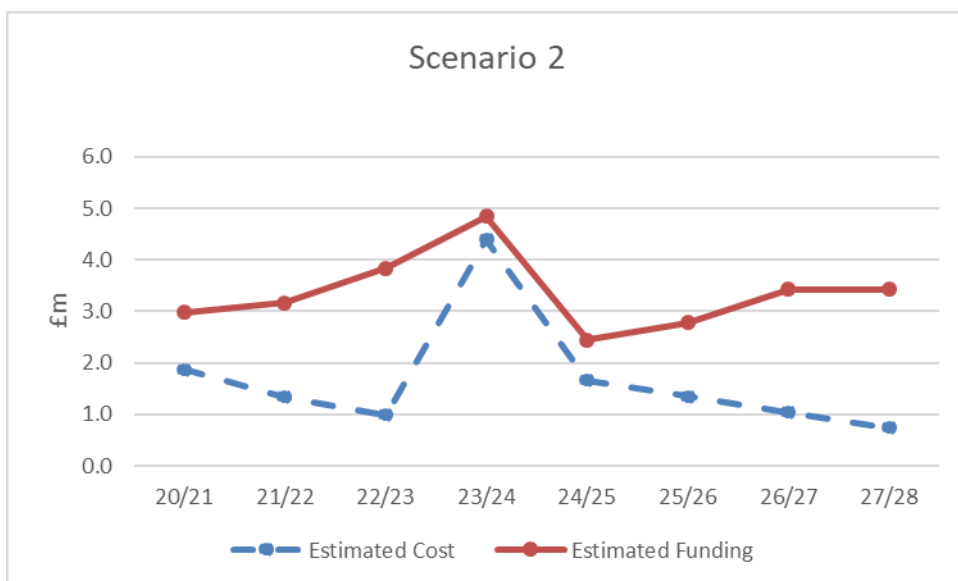
The financial modelling takes no account of any schools opening after September 2023 and considers the funding requirement for all schools until growth is completed and based upon the formula factors within the 2019/20 school funding formula.

21. Scenario 1  
Scenario 1 is judged to be the 'worst case' option. Under this option funding exceeds income until 2023/24 resulting in a deficit of £3.2m in 2027/28. Recovery of this deficit would be dependent upon growth allocations and the delivery of the anticipated schools in 2023 and beyond. The pace of delivery of housing developments has not been as rapid as anticipated in 2016 when the current policy was approved, further delay can therefore be anticipated.



22. Scenario 2

Scenario 2 is considered to be a more realistic option and surplus in retained and increases to £2.7m in 2027/28. The same caveats surrounding build rates however apply equally to this option.



23. A notional allocation of £1m has been included in the cost estimate in order that the funding mechanism for age range changes can be implemented if age range change is implemented in secondary schools in the Coalville and Ashby areas.

25. It is impossible to be precise about future cost and income because of uncertainty in;

- The build rate of schools
- The number of pupils to be funded which are agreed by the DfE and the school and set out in funding agreements
- Future growth allocations, the DfE have stated that they wish to continue to review how they meet such costs

- Future expectations on school funding, any changes to future funding rates and the National Funding Formula (NFF) will impact upon cost
26. The significant cost of growth relates to the provision of formula funding for the first seven months of a new school opening in advance of pupil numbers being recognised in DSG, local authorities have no discretion around this element of growth funding.
27. The proposed change in policy to fund an increased FE through all year groups increases the estimated cost over the 8 years modelled by a total of £2.5m and introduces an additional financial risk. However, this needs to be balanced against the risk of the local authority not being able to expand schools to meet increased demand for school places.
28. The policy and associated costs will be monitored on an annual basis.

### Background Papers

Report to Cabinet – 15 October 2013, Funding Schools Affected by Age Range Changes  
<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s87449/Funding%20Schools%20Affected%20By%20Age%20Range%20Changes.pdf>

Report to Schools Forum – 14 January 2016, Policy for Funding School Growth  
<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1018&MId=4562&Ver=4>

Report to Schools Forum – 20 June 2018, School Growth – Position Statement  
<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s138480/Position%20Statement%20on%20Funding%20School%20Growth.pdf>

### Officer to Contact

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Leicestershire County CouncilPolicy for Funding New Schools and Pupil Growth in Primary and Secondary SchoolsPolicy Background

Maintained schools and academies receive funding for pupils registered on the October school census only. This means that an increased pupil number reflected in that count is not recognised for funding until the following financial year. Schools therefore have a funding lag where costs may be incurred but revenue is not reflected in the school budget until;

- April of the following year for maintained schools
- September of the following year for an academy

This policy sets out the instances in which revenue funding will be allocated to schools outside the delegated budget for meeting the costs of additional pupils in new schools and classes.

Local authorities receive an allocation of funding within the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to ensure it is able to fulfil its statutory duty to ensure an adequate supply of school places. This funding is retained as a growth budget and is required to be approved annually by the Schools Forum. Such funding must be allocated on an objective basis and must retain equality between maintained schools and academies. In creating such a fund a balance must be achieved between retaining sufficient funding to allow planned expansion in schools, either as a result of overall demographic growth or housing development, and ensuring that delegated school budgets are maximised.

The school funding system operates on a single pupil count, no school ever receives funding for every pupil for the period in which they are registered on a school roll, all schools will encounter some changes in pupil numbers in any given financial year.

This policy makes provisions only for the following circumstances;

**Opening schools** – a new school opening or adding additional year groups until its opening age range is met. Funding is allocated to meet the cost of pupils prior to the school receiving funding based on the school census data for those pupils. Diseconomies of scale funding will also be provided in the years the school is adding year groups until its full age range is achieved.

**Additional school places** – open schools, where the local authority agrees, there is a basic need for additional classrooms as a result of demographic or housing growth where the local authority that meet the criteria set out within this policy.



The policy only provides for growth funding for schools for which Leicestershire County Council is required to fund under the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations.

This policy makes no provision for;

**Schools, Academies and Free Schools funded by other bodies** - The policy does not apply to any schools that are directly, on a temporary or permanent basis, funded by alternative bodies such as the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) which are outside the purpose of the Dedicated Schools Grant such as Independent schools and post 16 provision.

**Schools expanding age range** – in this instance there is no increase in the overall need for school places. The school growth policy does not apply and schools will be funded in accordance with the requirement to request approval to vary pupil numbers in accordance with the Schools and Early Years (England) Finance regulations and the agreed local authority process in place for the appropriate year.

**Schools expanding size where there is not a basic need for additional places** – Where Governing Bodies or Trusts determine an increase in school size unrelated to basic need, in this instance the expansion will not be funded by the local authority through this policy.

**Infant class sizes** – funding for ensuring that schools are not in breach of the infant class size regulations was, following consultation with schools, fully delegated to all maintained schools and academies in 2013, schools are expected to accommodate the requirement within the schools delegated budget.

### **Opening Schools**

1. In accordance with the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations the funding for an opening school will be by the application of the local authority's school funding formula for each pupil estimated to be on roll in the September of each year until such time the school has a full contingent of year groups.
2. The number of pupils to be funded will be agreed with the operator of each school on an annual basis. This estimate will be agreed in January immediately preceding the opening of the school or the addition of new classes in order to be reflected in the local authority's school budget formula submission to the ESFA.
3. The agreed pupil estimate will be adjusted each year, until the school has admitted all year groups, to reflect actual admissions i.e. if actual pupils exceed the estimate a positive adjustment will be made to the following funding period. Conversely if the estimate is higher than actual pupil numbers a negative adjustment will be made to the following funding period.
4. The basis for the pupil number estimate will be taken from the tender documents submitted by the operator of the schools in their application. This may be adjusted for relevant data held by the local authority and / or the school operator.
5. A start up grant of £125,000 will be provided to the school in its first year of opening.

6. A diseconomies of scale grant of £9,250 will be paid to reflect the cost of equipping a new classroom to ensure a suitable teaching and learning environment for each year group added in year two and each subsequent year where these items are not provided through the capital investment in the school.

### **Additional Classes in Open Schools / Academies**

7. The local authority will make an allocation of £50,000 in the first year of expansion and £50,000 in subsequent years until the expansion has been completed across all year groups;
- Where the local authority carries out a formal consultation and approves an increase in the capacity of a school
  - Where a school/academy carries out a formal consultation and approves an increase in capacity at either the request of the local authority or supported by the local authority
  - Where the local authority is making capital provision with its Medium Term Financial Strategy to deliver additional classroom space to support an increase in Form Entry.
8. Schools qualifying for school growth as a result of expansion for basic needs purposes will be assessed through the school place planning processes by the application of the criteria detailed in this policy. The approval of funding will take place in the local authorities Corporate Schools Group which considers all aspects of school place planning.
9. Grant allocations will be reported to the Schools Forum, the report will detail the grant and also the criteria under which it is allocated.

### **Approval Process – School Expansion**

10. Eligibility for funding under this policy will be assessed within the School Organisation Service at Leicestershire County Council. The eligibility assessment will consider the net capacity and pupil forecasts for the school and neighbouring schools alongside the eligibility criteria set out in paragraph 7 above.
11. Academies should seek an assessment of eligibility for school growth in advance of seeking Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC), or other, approval prior to it being undertaken. Approval of expansion by the RSC does not constitute approval for funding under this policy.
12. The application of the policy is at the sole discretion of the Leicestershire County Council. Where exceptional circumstances arise that might warrant allocation of growth funding but not wholly consistent with the criteria set out in the policy, then the matter should be referred to the Director and Lead Cabinet Member for further consideration



## SCHOOLS FORUM

### Proposed Transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block 2010/21

30 September 2019

Content Applicable to;		School Phase;	
Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools	X	Pre School	X
Academies	X	Foundation Stage	X
PVI Settings		Primary	X
Special Schools / Academies	X	Secondary	X
Local Authority		Post 16	
		High Needs	X

#### Purpose of Report

Content Requires;		By;	
Noting	X	Maintained Primary School Members	X
Decision		Maintained Secondary School Members	X
Comment	X	Maintained Special School Members	X
		Academy Members	X
		All Schools Forum	X

1. This report sets out Leicestershire County Council's intention to consult on a transfer of funding of up to 0.5% from the Schools block to the High Needs Block for 2020/21.

#### Recommendations

2. That Schools Forum notes and comments on intention of the local authority to consult on a proposal to transfer up to 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.
3. That Schools Forum note the intention to seek nominations from each of Leicestershire Primary Heads (LPH) and Leicestershire Secondary Schools (LSH) a Headteacher and School Business Manager to consider the detail of a proposed transfer.

4. That Schools Forum nominate a Schools Forum member to consider the detail of a proposed transfer.

### **Introduction**

5. Schools Forum have been informed of the deficit on the High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the High Needs Development Plan. This report presents a further proposal, a transfer from the Schools Block to High Needs of up to 0.5%, for 2020/21.
6. The Secretary of State announced on September 9<sup>th</sup> that there would be additional school and high needs funding for 2020/21. Analysis of the high needs announcement suggests that Leicestershire will receive C£5.48m as a result of this announcement. However this is insufficient to fully address the high needs deficit.
7. It isn't possible to assess the impact of the school funding announcement until detailed data at individual school level by the Department for Education (DfE) which is expected to be received in late September / early October.
8. The headlines of the settlement are;
  - Increased minimum per pupil funding levels of £3,750 in 2020/21 rising to £4,000 in 2021/22 for primary schools and £5,000 for secondary schools. For middle schools, all-through schools and other schools with a non-standard year group structure there will be individual calculations to produce a specific minimum per-pupil value that relates to the number of year groups in each phase. It will be mandatory for local authorities to use these amounts in their funding formula. How this will operate in practice is subject to the outcome of a Department for Education (DfE) consultation.
  - The value of most formula factors has been increased by 4%
  - The funding floor will be raised from 0.5% per pupil to 1.84% per pupil
  - Funding gains will not be capped
9. Whilst early modelling of the impact of the proposal has been completed it is not possible to assess with any certainty the impact of the additional funding, particularly the minimum funding per pupil rates.
10. Modelling will be completed on the data once received from the DfE to determine what capacity there will be within what is effectively a nationally revised National Funding Formula (NFF) to effect a transfer. This will determine the impact at individual school level and will form the basis of a proposed transfer.
11. Local authorities are able to:
  - Transfer up to 0.5% of the gross Schools Block to High Needs following consultation with schools and the approval of the Schools Forum. Should the Schools Forum not approve a transfer approval can be sought from the Secretary of State.

- Transfer more than 0.5% of the gross Schools Block with the approval of the Secretary of State

There are no restrictions on transfers between other blocks. Approval for a transfer is only for the year it is enacted, further approvals are required annually.

12. Local authorities would have normally expected to have the NFF dataset from the DfE in July. Given that this data is not expected until late September / early October the timescale for effecting this proposal is exceptionally tight.
13. Schools Forum will need to consider approval in November given that should the local authority need to seek Secretary of State approval if Schools Forum do not agree any proposal by 30 November. This will mean that modelling and consultation will need to be completed during October.
14. The draft consultation document which sets out the background to the proposals is provided to Schools Forum Members confidentially under separate cover.

### **Resource Implications**

15. The resource implications cannot be determined until receipt of detailed NFF data from the DfE. The consultation will set out the financial implications for the local authority and for individual schools.

### **Equal Opportunity Issues**

16. The purpose of the NFF is to ensure that all pupils with the same needs are funded at the same rate irrespective of the authority in which they are educated.
17. Local authority proposals will consider the impact at overall school level and identify whether any group of pupils funded within the NFF are disproportionately affected by any transfer.

### **Background Papers**

Report to Schools Forum 10 June 2019 – High Needs Development Plan – New SEND Provision

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1018&MId=5858&Ver=4>

Report to Schools Forum 12 February 2019 – High Needs Development Plan – consulting on developing specialist provision

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1018&MId=5857&Ver=4>

Report to Schools Forum – 26 November 2018 – High Needs Block Recovery Plan

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1018&MId=5493&Ver=4>

### **Officers to Contact**

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